GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1220
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2005
ANCIENT TEMPLE UNEARTHED AT MAMLAPURAM
Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some temple relics have been unearthed by the Tsunami waves at Mamlapuram Coast (Chennai);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether above relics belong to Pallava Dynasty;

(d) whether any decision is being taken to undertake carbon dating of relics;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the maintenance of the relics ?

Answer

MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a), (b) & (c) Yes, Sir. Three bas-reliefs were exposed by the Tsunami waves at Mamallapuram coast (Chennai). These depict
(i) the figure of tiger and a deity in a niche flanked by demi-gods,
(ii) bas-relief figure of an elephant and a horse with a circular niche at the top and
(iii) and figure of a kirtimukha (lion face).

The bas-reliefs are carved over a bed rock and stylistically they belong to Pallava period.

(d) & (e) These bas-reliefs are in stone and therefore they cannot be subjected to carbon dating.

(f) The exposed reliefs are safe and maintained within the protected area of Seashore Temple.